

**Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Wellton Public Hearing - 11/9/04
Arizona Clean Fuels Yuma, LLC
Air Quality Permit #1001205**

Lester Andrew: My name is Lester Andrew and I represent the Arizona Building Trades. We are probably in favor of proposed refinery as long as the project is build by fair Arizona Contractors and skilled Arizona Labor. We feel it is imperative to the people of Arizona and this community that the contractors who build this project provide health insurance for the employees that build the project and their families so that the workers and their families do not become a burden to this community. It is also imperative that this project utilize local Arizona Contractors and employees where ever possible. The last thing Arizona needs is to have out-of-state contractors bring in out-of-state workers to build this project. Education of the local employees who build the project should also be considered paramount, considering in all likely hood that the local people who build the refinery will probably also be the people eventually working at this site. With these ideas in mind, I'm going to respectfully request that Arizona Clean Fuels consider a project labor agreement with language addressing the issues of health care, education, and using fair local Arizona contractors to whatever extend possible. Thank you for your attention.

Pat Coburn: My husband and I are in business in Wellton which is just down the road from the proposed site of the refinery. I also have asthma. I understand the refinery will make an impact economically on the citizens of Yuma, but I would also like ADEQ to stop and consider the most sensitive and vulnerable citizen, the children of Yuma County and also the people with air quality problems, lung problems, asthma, COPD. In Governor Napolitano's speech on April 11, 2003, she announced the start of a children environmental health project, an initiative to reduce exposure of Arizona children to environmental health hazards. She stated it was a priority of her administration to provide a clean and healthy environment for all Arizona citizens particularly for the most sensitive and vulnerable ones, our children. The governor spoke at length about asthma, stating that it was unacceptable that the prevalence and mortality rates for asthma in Arizona have exceeded the national average in 9 out of the ten last years. I'm going to repeat that one: the prevalence and mortality rates for asthma in Arizona have exceeded the national average in 9 out of the last ten years. She directed the Arizona Department of Environment to implement care, c-a-r-e, strategy with initial focus on air quality and asthma. Department of Health Service Director Kathy Eden was a part of the children environmental health forum and reported in May 2003 the result of the assessment of environmental exposures that significantly effect the health of Arizona children as follows: 8 were listed these were the top 4: top of the list is ambient air pollutants and asthma and then there's allergens and asthma, second hand tobacco smoke and valley fever. Ambient air pollutants being the top one. April 20, 2004 the Sun news reported about the meeting the supervisors had with Arizona Clean Fuels concerning the proposed refinery. One of the supervisors asked the question: "would the refinery emit any fumes that people in the area would have to worry about?" Mr. McGinnis answered no, what you will see when you look at the facility is a white plume coming from the cooling

tower, which is basically water, however because of the dry desert air here it won't be very big and will disappear quickly. Since then we've had other news articles that have appeared in the paper. Reported in the Sun about a presentation of materials that the prior presentation there were more tons that were going to go into the air but the article on October 4 said the revised requirement showed that the projected amount of compounds that the facility would release per year are over a 1000 tons. That's a 1000 tons of compound into the air which goes back to this ambient air pollutants plus the same article states that there will be expansion in ten to fifteen years, so that's now and then later on down the line we'll be looking at more tons in the air. That is definitely more than a plume of water that will disappear quickly. Rightly so it will disappear into our children's lungs and our adult lungs as well. The most sensitive and vulnerable of our county, the children, will suffer the consequences of this refinery. The children's lungs already have to deal with the present air quality that can be deadly: dust from the ground, tilling, aerial pesticides, burning of the fields, emissions from the local cattle company, and other emissions as well, that are already here. I believe that its time for ADEQ to step back from the dollar signs for the county and consider our most sensitive and valuable citizens, our children. Thank you.

Steven D. Coburn: I also have to reiterate what my wife just said. I have to deal with the person who has asthma and can't breathe because of the air quality and I also feel like these refineries, refineries have a miserable records of compliance with federal laws and state laws. On October 7 of this year example Citgo settled with the federal government to pay a 320 million dollars fine to install air pollutant controls which were submitting HAPs into the air, also the proposed air quality permit fails to adequately monitor all of the hazardous air pollutant, these include heavy metals like lead and mercury. Things that don't decompose in the air over a time and they keep accumulating in the environment and to humans. These HAPs also include benzene which is a known cancer particle in addition you also get the proposed permit fails to monitor the hydrogen sulfide H₂S better known as the rotten egg smell. Also, my other complaint is, what I want ADEQ to think about, is the water, this is going to use, the refinery will require 2000 acre-feet of water per year or 1 million 5 hundred thousand gallons of water a day. Arizona is already in a drought situation although we did a little rain here. We are in a drought situation so if they are using 1 million 5 hundred thousand gallons of water a day, where are we going to get all this water from? The Colorado? If you look at Lake Mead, Lake Powell, they're all down, worse drought in 500 years. So where we going to get all this water and then my water rates for Wellton already has tripled. I'm paying more money now than I have before, so what's this going to do to our water rates because we don't have enough water. So those are my concerns. Thank you.

Erin Horner: Hi my name is Erin Horner and I'm a resident of Yuma. My concerns lie with the health of this community. Many of you may have read my particular editorial, I lived close to a plant in Sugar Creek Missouri. I had friends that lived there, the rate of brain tumors because of this refinery was 200 times the national average. There is nothing good to be said about a refinery. There are reasons that people do not want them in their backyards. There are reasons why Maricopa, where this is originally suppose to be set, is not having it now. Maricopa County, Pima County, yes, they panicked when we

had the problem with the gas last year, yes I understand that there is a problem, but is putting another refinery in, especially down here, is that the answer? I have a problem with the health issues that were just stated above. I am an asthmatic and I'm also a cancer survivor and would like to stay a cancer survivor. Benzene is a huge problem with refineries. Benzene multiplies your chances of cancer drastically, yes children's allergy, children's asthma, it is just off the wall. Leukemia from the sulfur that these things emit is unbelievable. There's also a problem with what we call environmental justice. Under the Clinton era they found that many of these refineries had been build in areas where the population was very poor, where the population was high in African American, Hispanic etc. Yuma County is 50.5% Hispanic. We are one of the poorest counties in Arizona and we have a large population of seniors. Somehow I'm finding a little bit of a problem with this. According to the laws put down by the EPA under the Clinton Administration under what is called the environmental justice this can not happen. Are we being picked on? We all know that we're the red headed stepchildren to many of the people in Maricopa County and to Pima County. We don't get a lot of resources out here and a lot of times that's okay. We kinda like to be left alone down here. They think that we're part of an armpit, and that's alright but they want a refinery, but that's only because it's not in there backyard and I think that we really, really need to look at the health situation and also look at your property values for the homes that you are building in the Wellton area, the Tacna area any place like that. Are you going to be able to resell your home when somebody comes to look at it and they look at the big plume in the sky? We need to think about those things. Thank you.

Tim Horner: First of all I want to thank you for your time. Please bear with me I'm not a public speaker, but I will try and do my best in bringing about the points. As my wife has iterated, she is a cancer survivor and we want to keep it that way, we want the environmental quality of the area in that we live to be the best possible that we can possibly have it. Aside from the facts that the emissions at the refinery will be emitting, I think, I would like each of you to consider also what the by products is going to result in. One of the referendums as far as the RFB project in the clean fuel acts, the additives that need to be added to the fuel to satisfy the conditions for the clean fuel act is MTBE. MTBE is a known carcinogen once it gets into the ground water and it's very easily you send it out to the facilities that dispense the fuel to the automobile, to all the machinery and everything. It even goes the boats. Go directly into our water supply, it's dissolvable in water, once its dissolved in water it's almost 100% dissolvable, you can't get it out. That's, it's there, it's a known carcinogen. Are we asking for our children, our grand children, their children to be able to live with the continued carcinogens they're adding to our environment? As far as we've been told it's going to increase the employment of the county. The refinery yeah it's going to bring in employment what kind of employment will it bring in, has to be skilled workers. Are the people that are unemployed in Yuma county skilled workers? First of all it's going to bring in approximately 300 jobs, with a questionable environmental impact. Are 300 jobs really going to affect the unemployment rate in Yuma. The Yuma mall is going in and it's providing 2000 jobs with no environmental impact. Once again it's very insignificant. The people that will come to work at the refinery are not the ones that are unemployed now in Yuma County. They will be brought in elsewhere, either out of the state or out of the district, or

wherever, and it really won't have a significant impact on the unemployment rate. I, again with my wife, we lived close to Sugar Creek and saw the direct impact of the refinery. As it's been states on many publications with EPA, ADEQ will verify this. As far as if you look at any of the areas just going to cancer alley. With many vicinities, under locales that have refineries that are prevalent in their society and what the impact that is provided to them the impact that it's had upon them. Let me get my train of thought here again. The reason that there haven't been any refineries build in the last 28 years, is a very significant reason. And if we really take the time and do our homework and look into that, I think we can see why, the reason why, most people move to Arizona and especially to this area of the state was because it had very clean air, it was a very clean society very significant to our health, and let's not allow things to be moved in to destroy that significance. Another thing that I'd like you to look up if you would and it doesn't have anything to do with a refinery specifically, but it has to do with a clean up project. There a clean up project that's been going on over the last 25 years and people trying to receive compensation for waste burial and waste sites, it's call TBAG which is times beach activist group that happened many sites in eastern Missouri. And if you look at the difficulties that they've had in being able to recover, the problems that's been created from something that's happen. You'll find that the initial onset of saying ok may create problems that will take years & years & years & years to correct in the future. So think very strongly about, before we allow something in our backyard that may not really be as good as we expect it to be. Thank you for your patience and your time for listening to me.